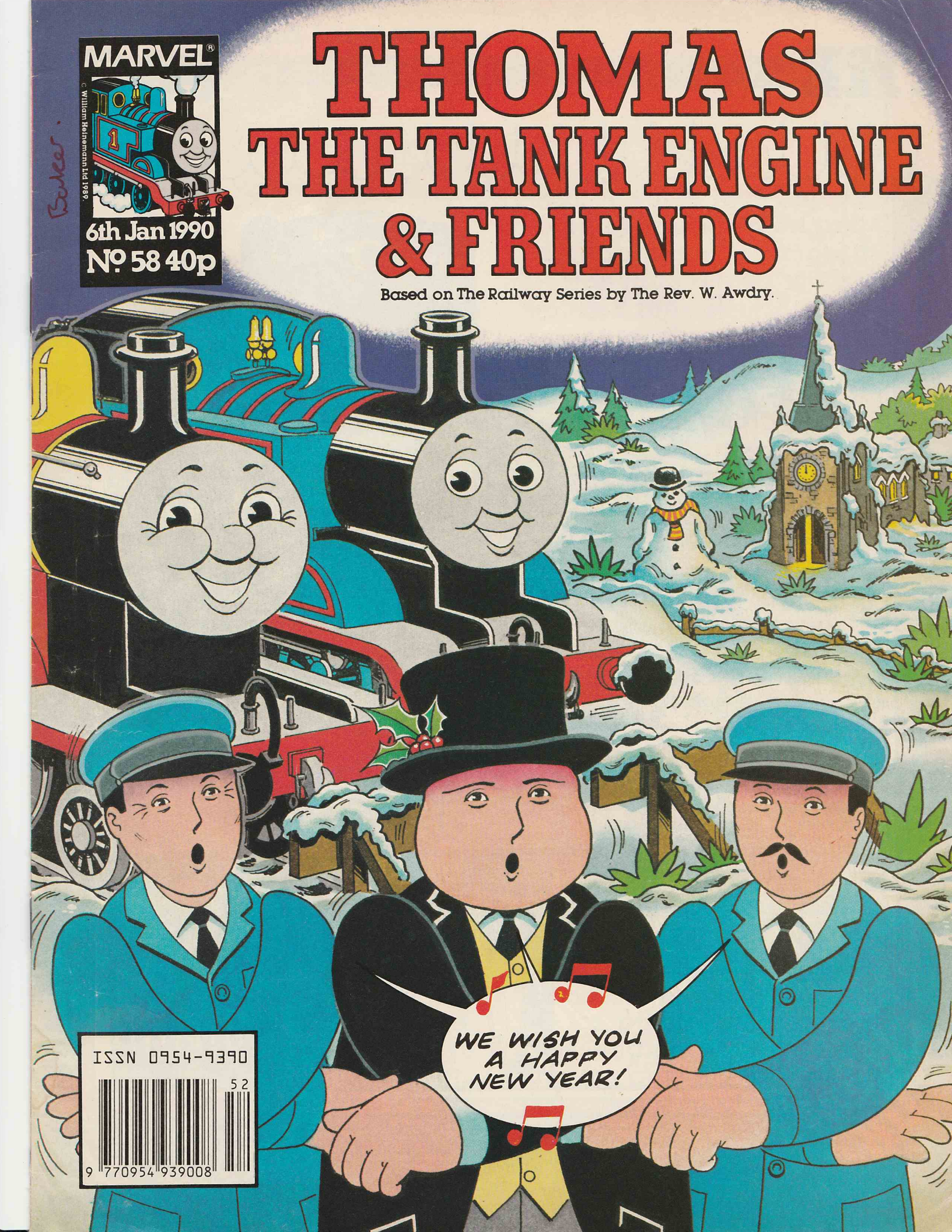
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6th Jan 1990
No 58 40p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
WE WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
ISSN 0954-9390
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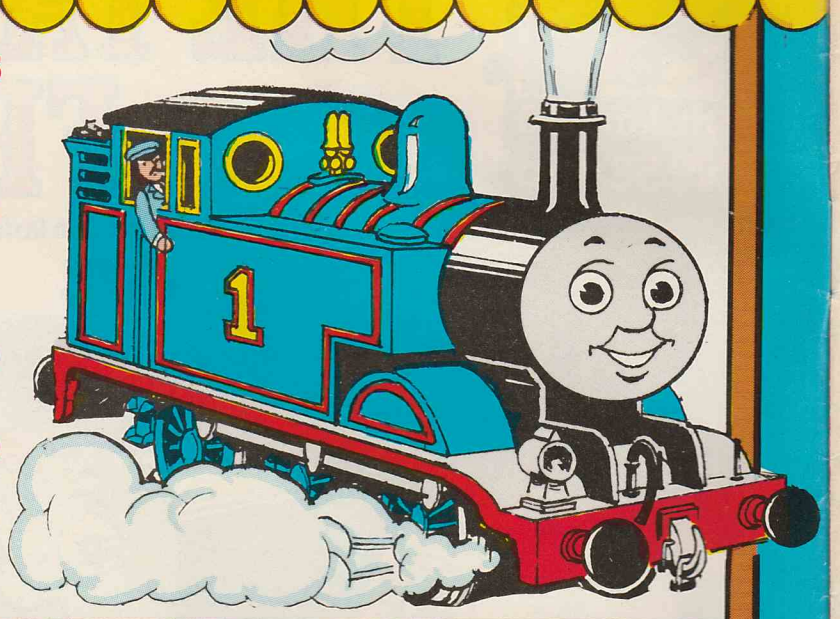
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Percy believes that he has seen a fierce dragon roaming around on the Island of Sodor. He is frightened that he may be eaten and is reluctant to pull anything out of the station–until Thomas comes along and explains that the dragon is quite harmless after all. Peep! Peep!



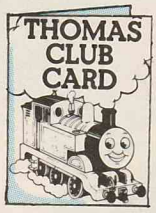
EVERY ISSUE!

By taking out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends,** every issue will be sent straight to your home for a year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Details are on **page 7!**

ANOTHER WAY!

Another way to join Thomas's Club is to collect tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **yellow** one, one **green** one and one **red** one, together with a stamped, addressed envelope to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your very own little black and white membership card plus number!

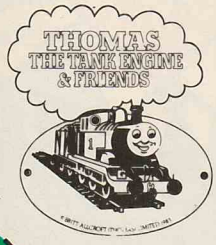


WELCOME!

The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers:

Thomas Dairy, aged 4, **Michael Rehman,** aged 7, **Benjamin Pritchard** (2684), **Stuart Walker,** aged 8 and **Louise Aikins** (28078).

If you'd like a special hello from the Fat Controller, please send him your details at the address shown on the letters page.



In our next issue: Edward and Harold team up to save the day!

THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX.
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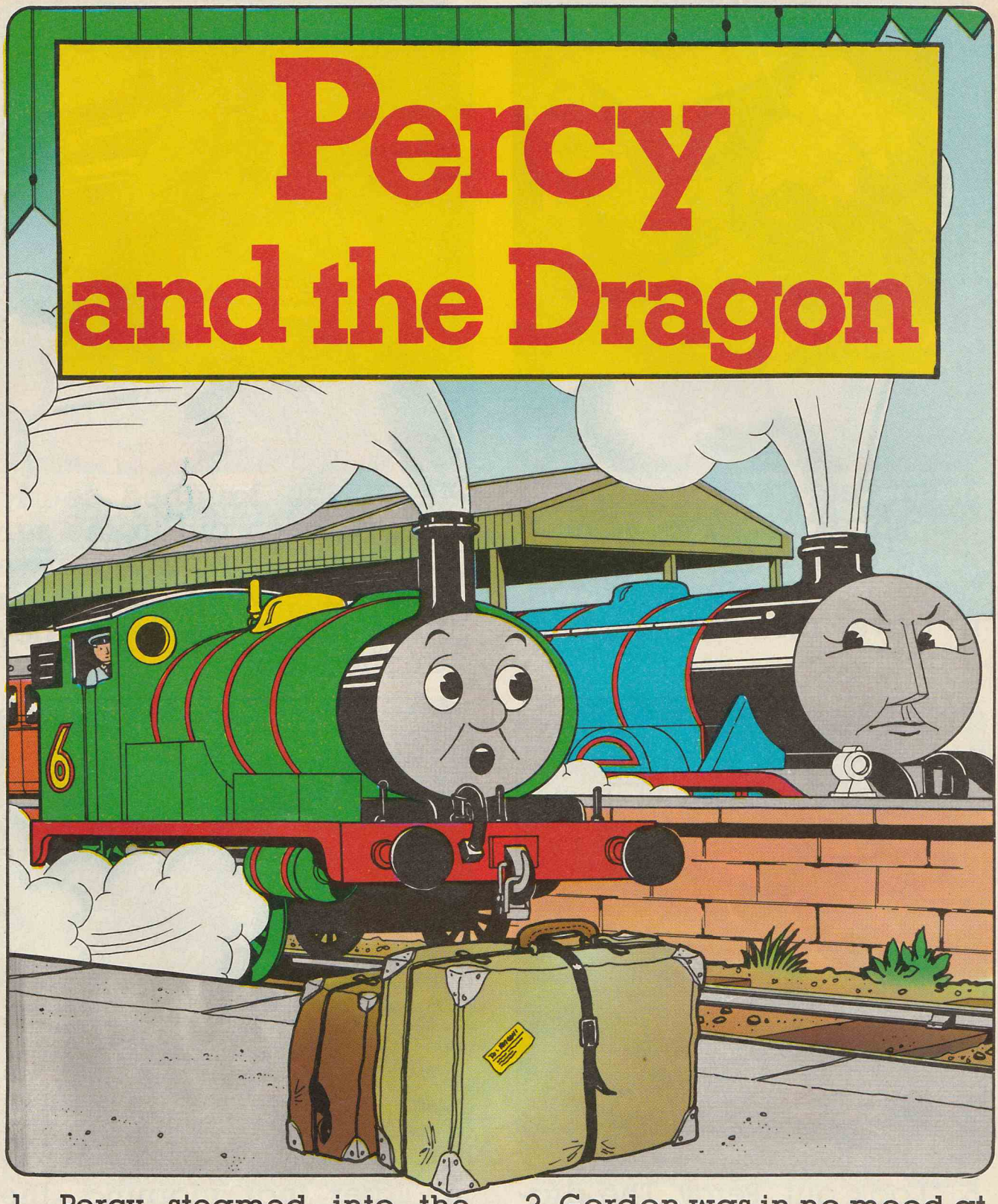
ABC

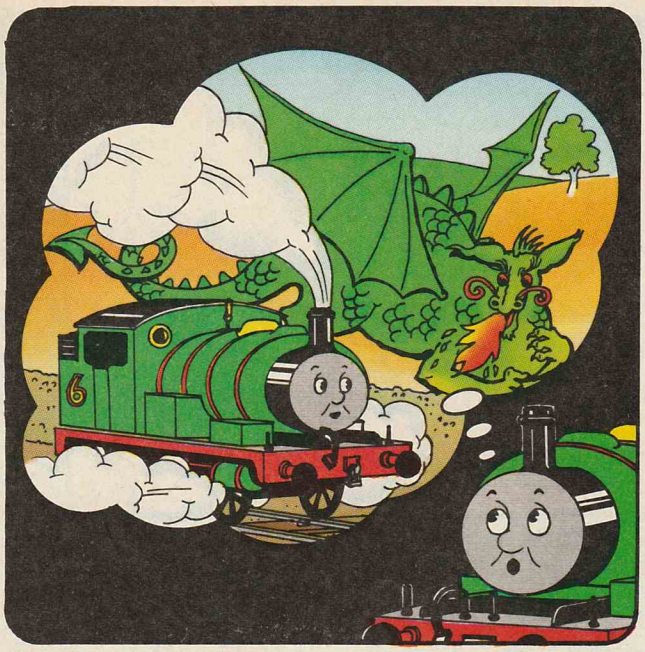
A listen and look story!

Percy and the Dragon

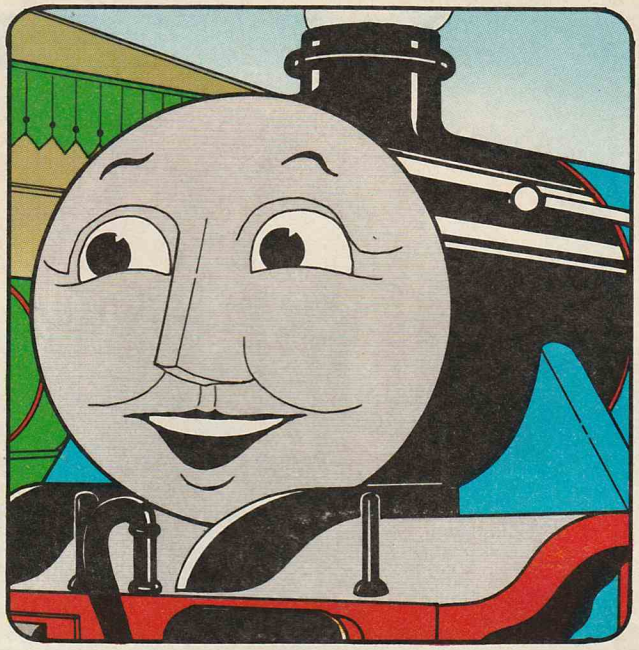


1. Percy steamed into the station, looking flustered. "You'll never guess what I've seen," he called to Gordon, who was about to pull out with the Express.

2. Gordon was in no mood at all for puzzles. "I'm a very busy engine. I don't have time for any of your games, you silly train," he said stuffily.

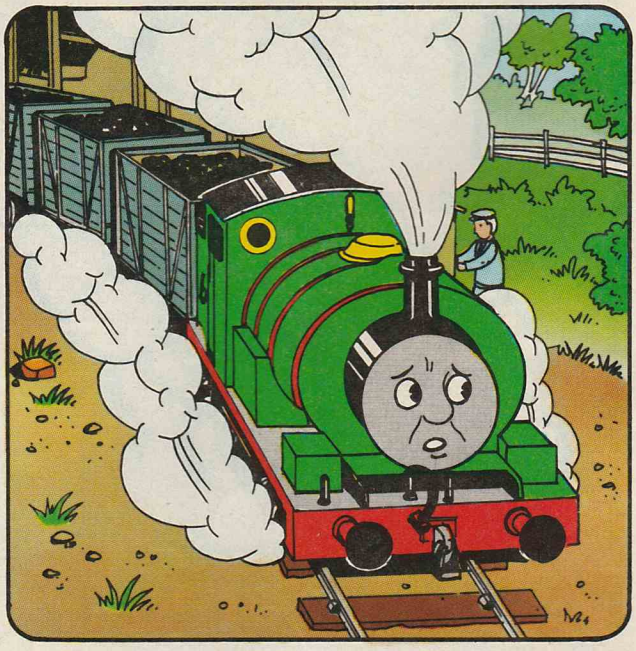


3. But Percy was bursting to tell someone. "I've seen a huge dragon," he shouted. "Past the old railway bridge. It gave me ever such a fright."

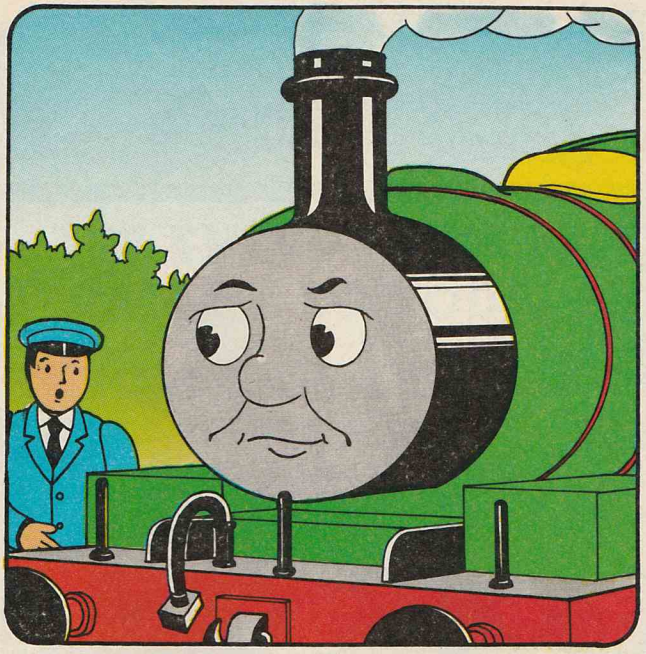


4. Gordon laughed sourly. "You've been out in the sun too long. Your pistons have cracked." When the other trains heard the news, they laughed too.

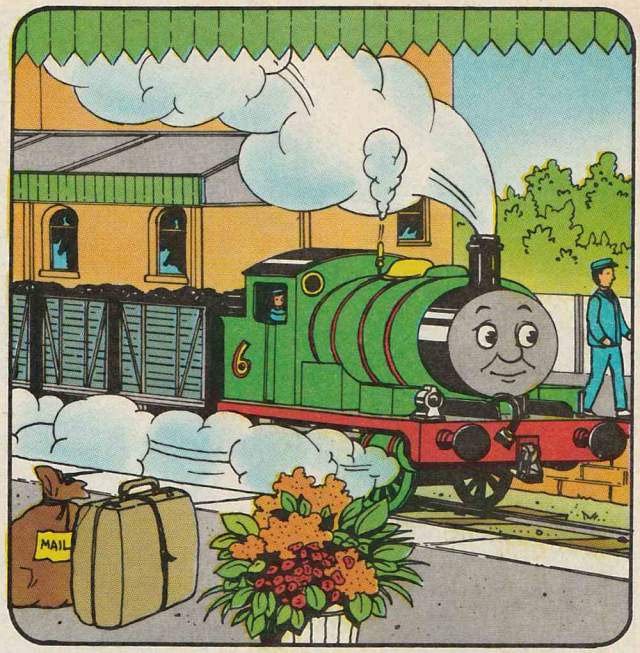
5. "Look out, Percy. The dragon's coming to gobble you up," chuckled Thomas. Percy blushed. He didn't like to be teased. "No one believes me," he said huffily.



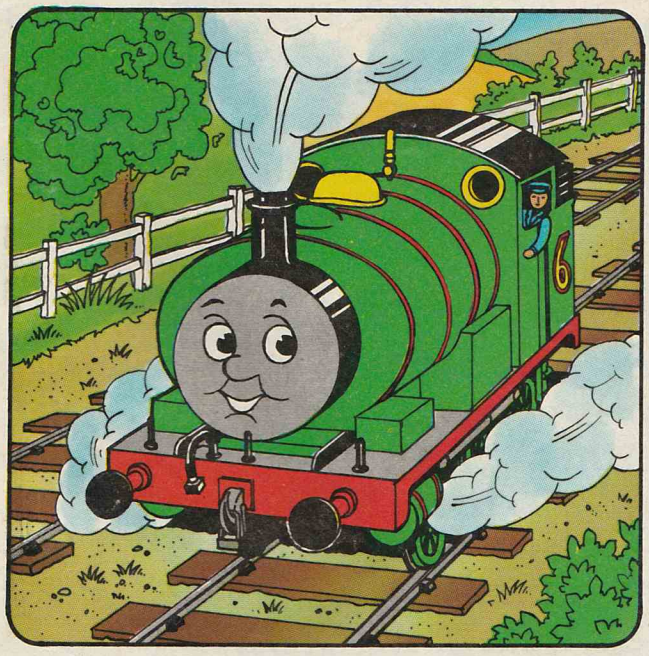
6. Later that morning, the coal trucks were coupled to Percy. He was taking them to the harbour. "What if that dragon's waiting for me?" he said, frowning.



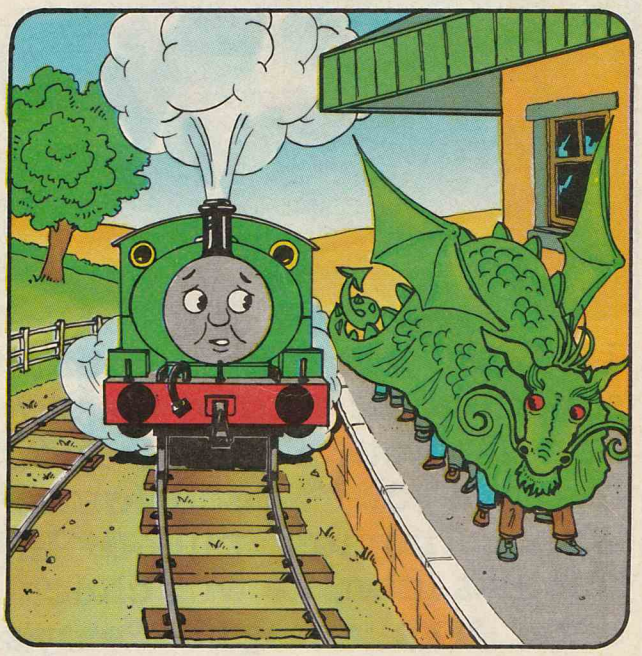
7. "Don't be silly, Percy," said his driver. "I didn't see a dragon anywhere. And if you don't work properly, the Fat Controller may get very cross."



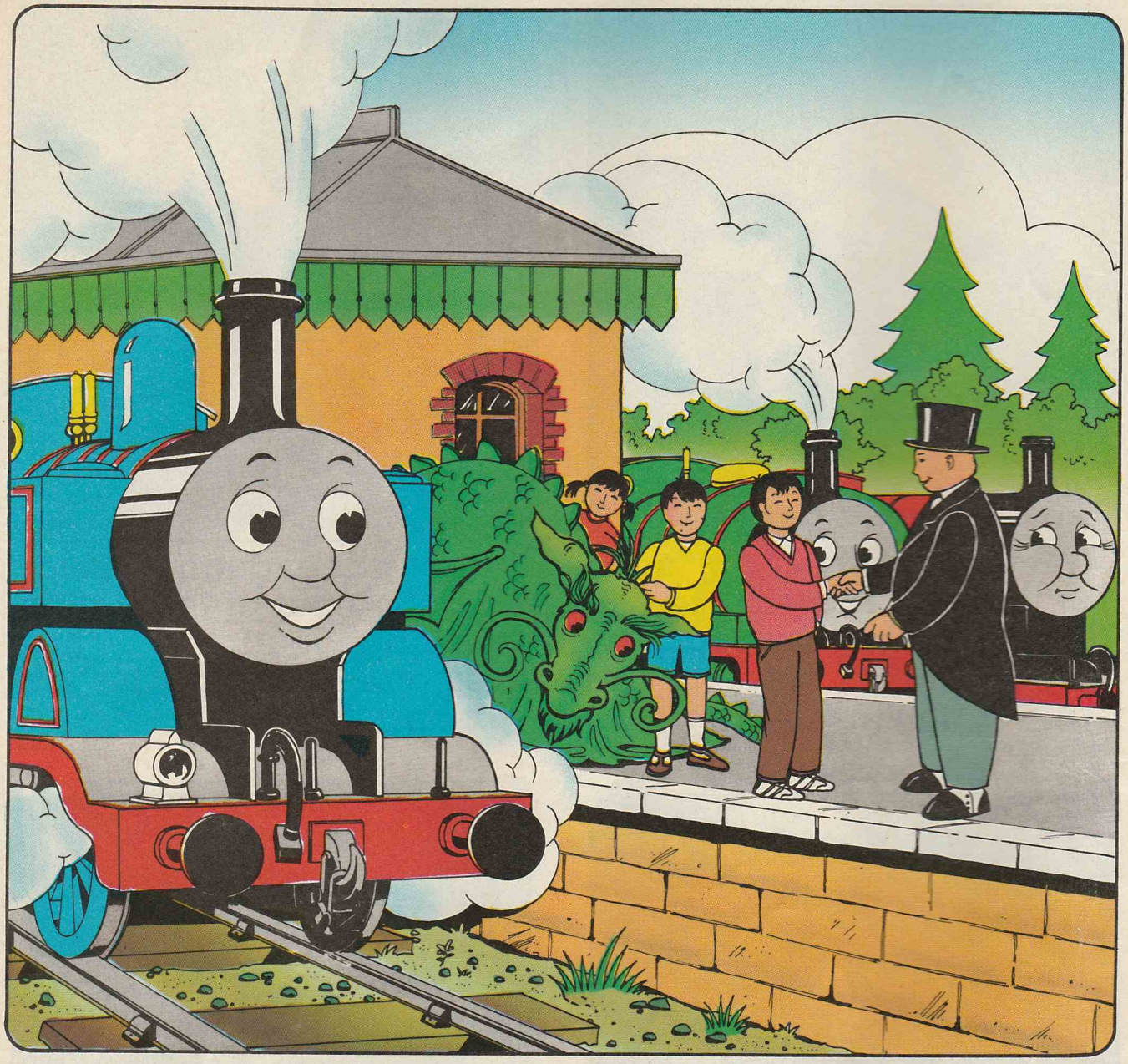
8. That was enough for Percy. He pulled out of the station, whistling loudly to show everyone how hard he was working.



9. Once the coal had been delivered, Percy made his way back towards the station. "Perhaps I did imagine the dragon at that," said Percy, laughing at himself.



10. So Percy was surprised to find the dragon waiting at the old station beside the railway bridge. "I hope it doesn't eat trains," said Percy, feeling frightened.



11. Percy was a little behind schedule arriving at the station. "I thought the dragon had got you," teased James. When Thomas pulled in, minutes later, he was chuckling. "I've caught Percy's dragon," he said. The door of Clarabel's coach swung open. A long, green dragon stepped onto the platform. The trains were surprised.

12. "Help, save me. Percy was telling the truth," cried James. This time it was Percy's chance to tease. "Silly. This isn't a real dragon. It's a costume, for a Chinese festival being held on the village green." The young people wearing the costume took it off. "Bless my soul," said the Fat Controller. No one laughed at Percy, after that.

THE END

In our next issue: The rescue!

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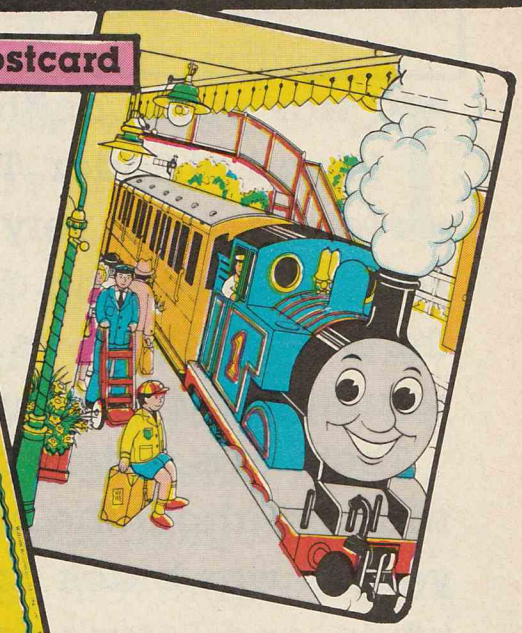

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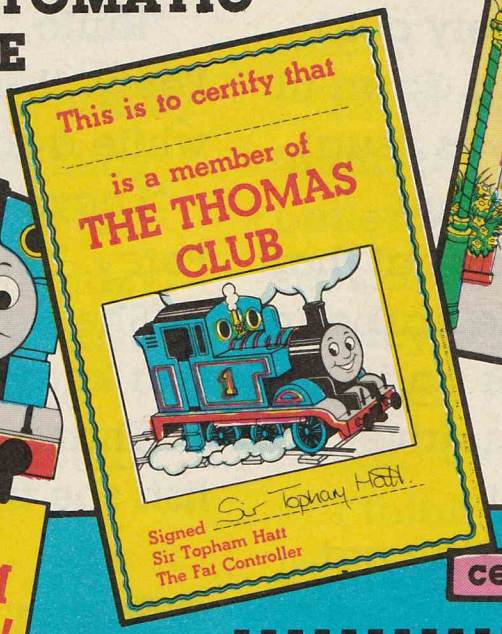
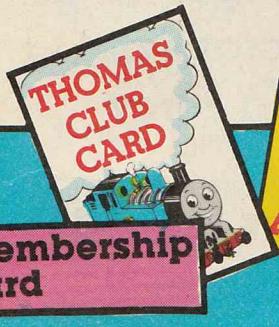


certificate



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See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

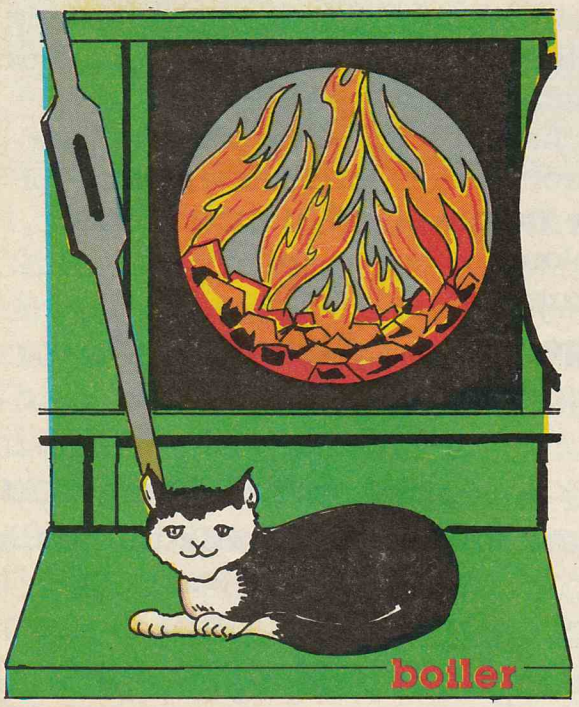
A read-aloud story!

Percy's Cat!

It was winter on the Island of Sodor. The weather was very cold. Percy was working down in the harbour yard as usual, shunting trucks about.

There was a stray cat that roamed about the harbour yard. It was black and white, and Percy's driver was very fond of it.

In the evenings, the cat would come and curl up behind Percy's boiler



Percy's driver called her "Lucy", but to everybody else, she was known as "Percy's cat".

"Hullo," called Duck to Percy. "I saw your cat just a while ago."

"Lucy's not my cat," said Percy. "She's just a stray."

"She's getting rather fat, you know," said Duck.

"That's all the scraps of fish she finds," said Percy.

Percy's cat was indeed looking rather fat. Percy hadn't noticed until Duck mentioned it.

Over the next few weeks, Percy noticed that Lucy wasn't just spending the night behind his boiler, but she would stay there most of the day as well. Percy's driver didn't seem to mind.

"Must be the cold weather," he said.

Percy's fireman laughed as he shovelled the coal over Percy's cat, making

sure not to drop any on her.

"I'm not sure the cold weather's the cause of it," he said, dropping another shovel of coal into the firebox. "Have you seen the size of her?"

Percy thought it hardly surprising that Lucy had become so fat. She was getting very lazy. One day she didn't move from the boiler at all!

That night Percy could hear Lucy calling, "meeeow meeeow". Her voice sounded strange and tiny.

"She must have caught a cold," thought Percy, trying to get back to sleep. But the next morning . . .

"Hullo! What's this?" called Percy's driver.

"What's what?" asked Percy.

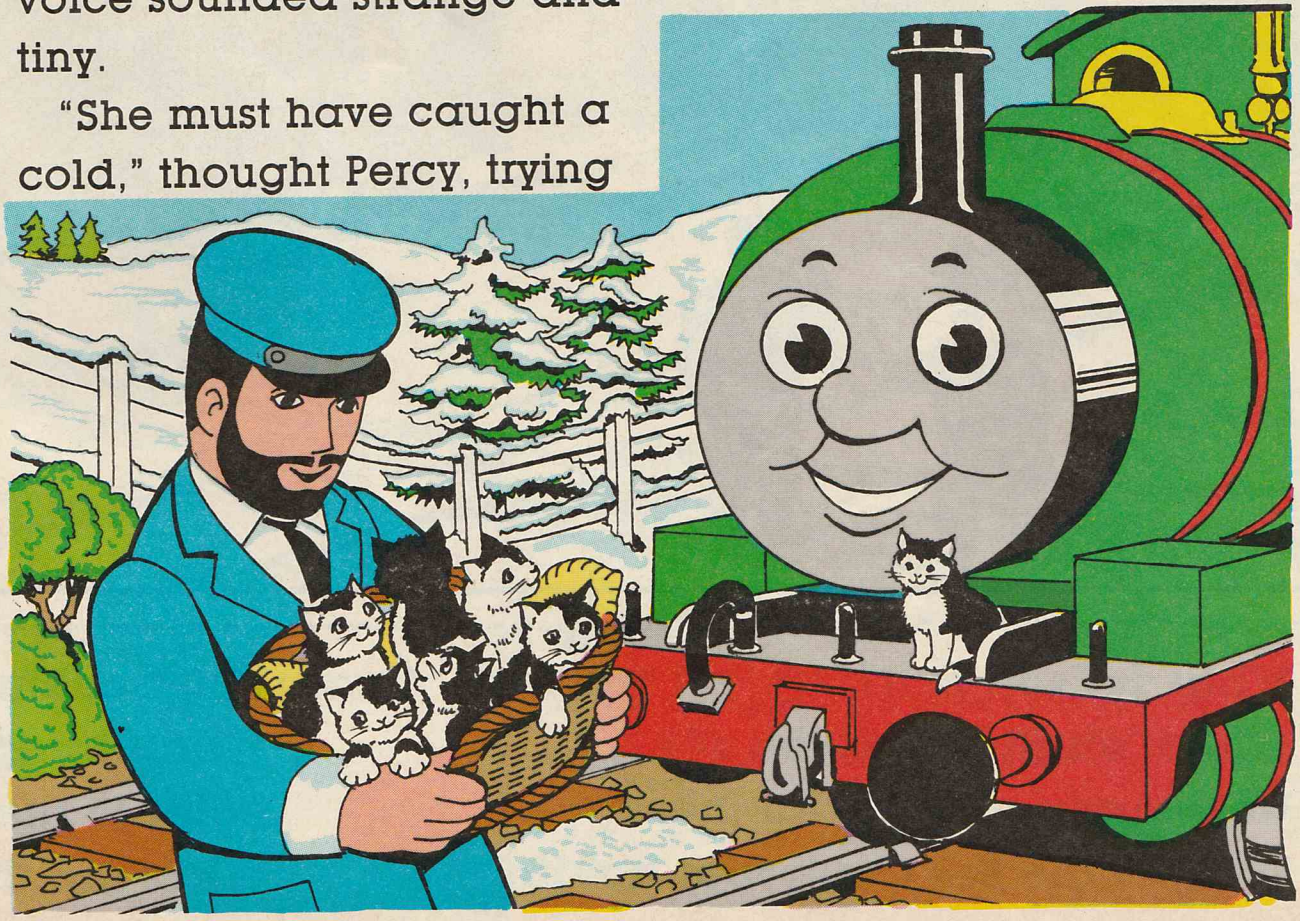
"I told you," said the fireman. There behind the boiler was not just Lucy, but six kittens as well!

Percy was delighted.

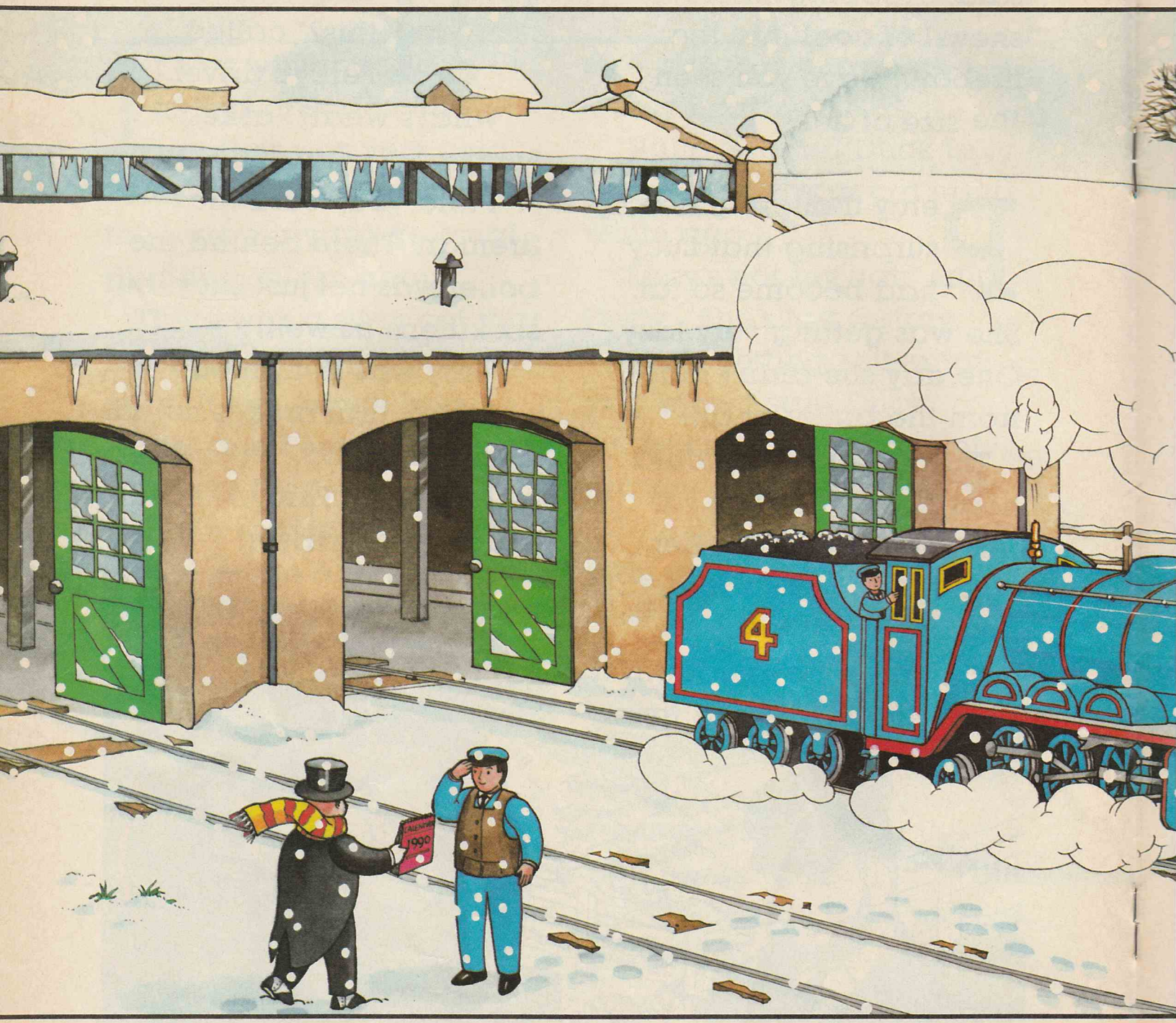
"I think that makes me an uncle," he said.

"I think so, Percy," laughed his driver.

THE END



Off we go a



What season is it?

Which engine can you see?

How many people are there?

What is the Fat Controller holding?

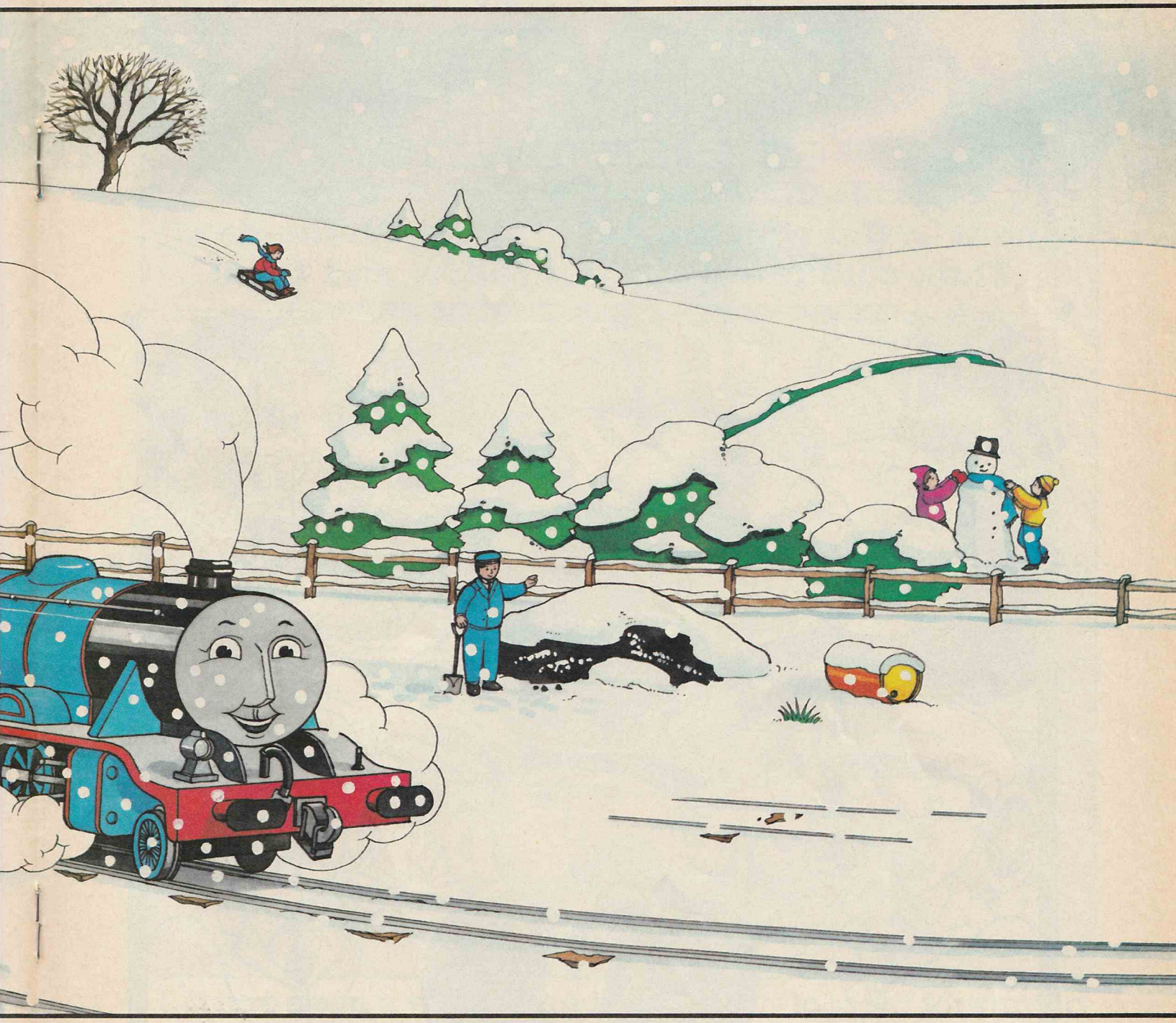
What colour are the

What are the boy a

Point to the icicles!

What are they mad

again!



e the stripes on his scarf?

oy and girl doing?

cles!

made of?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

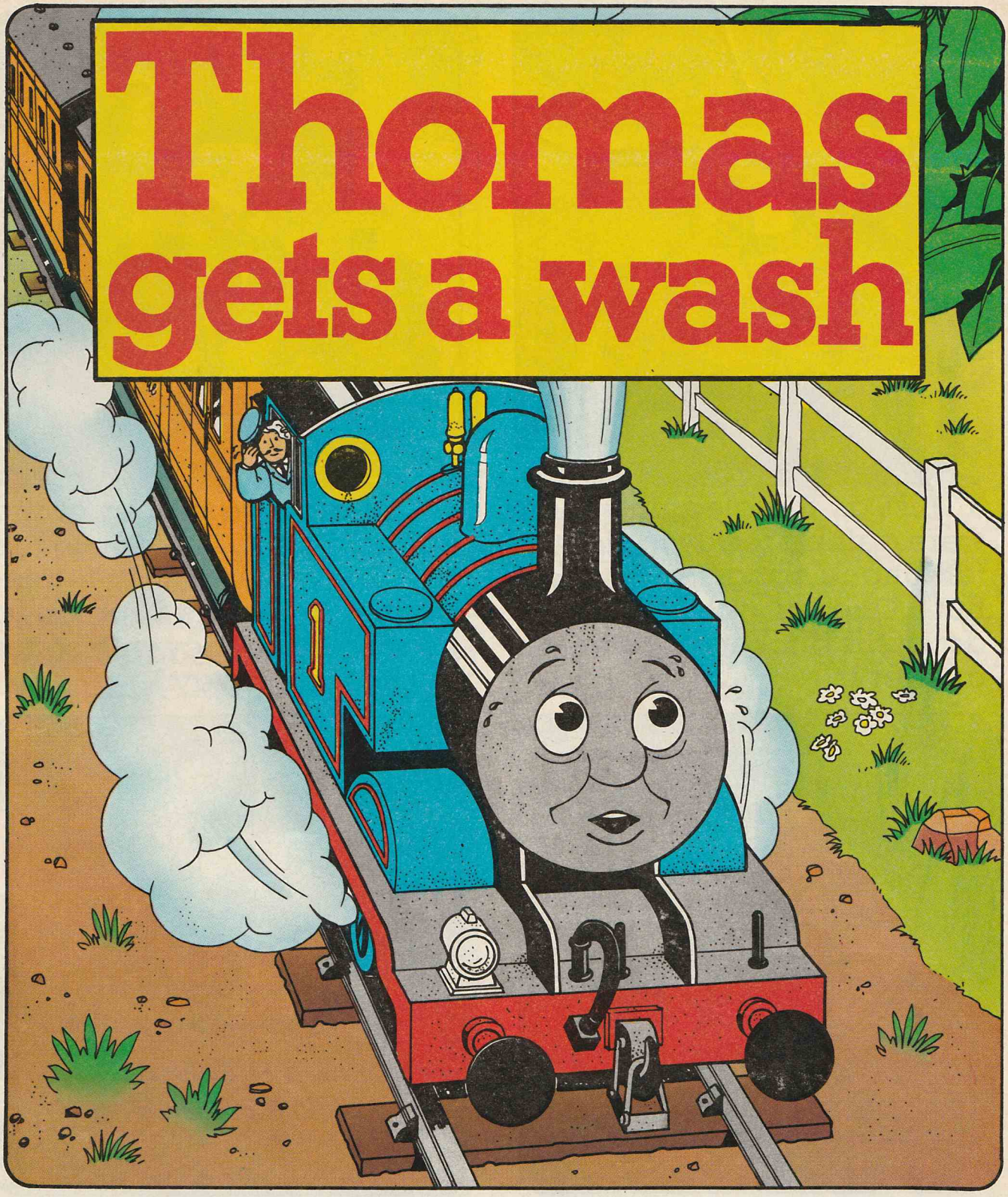
Next issue: Into the station!

COLOURING TIME!

Shout – 'Out with the old and in with the new!'
Then colour us in – red, yellow and blue!

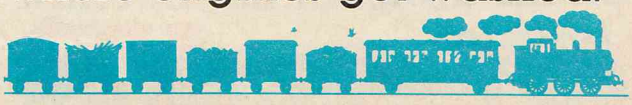
A listen and look story!

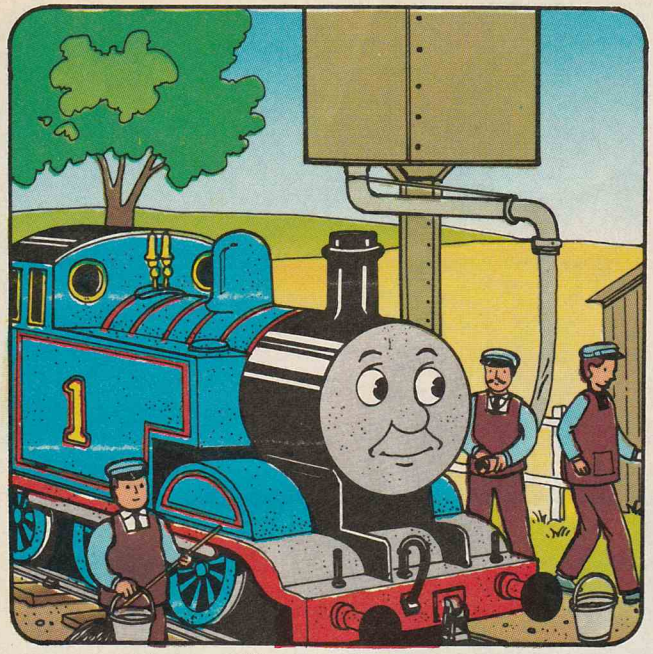
Thomas gets a wash



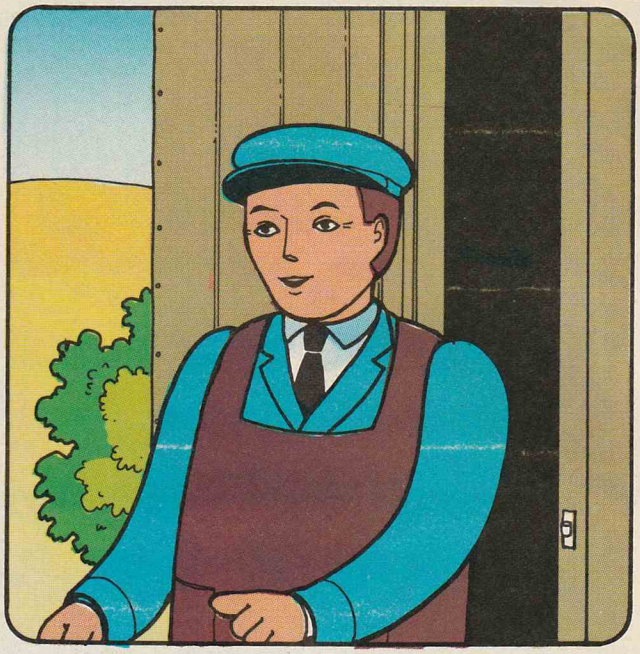
1. It had been a very hot and sunny week on the Island of Sodor. Thomas had been working very hard indeed and had got very dusty and dirty.

2. He was looking forward to being cleaned and polished. When he had a break between trains he went to the cleaning station, where engines get washed.

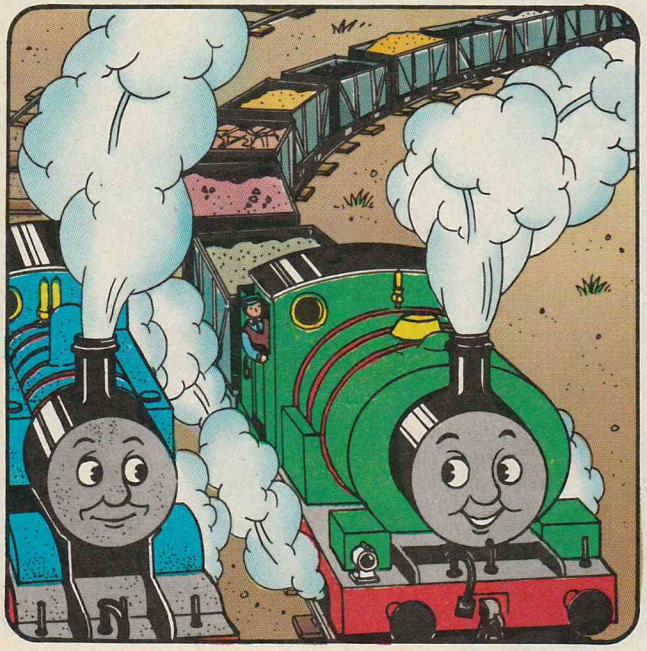




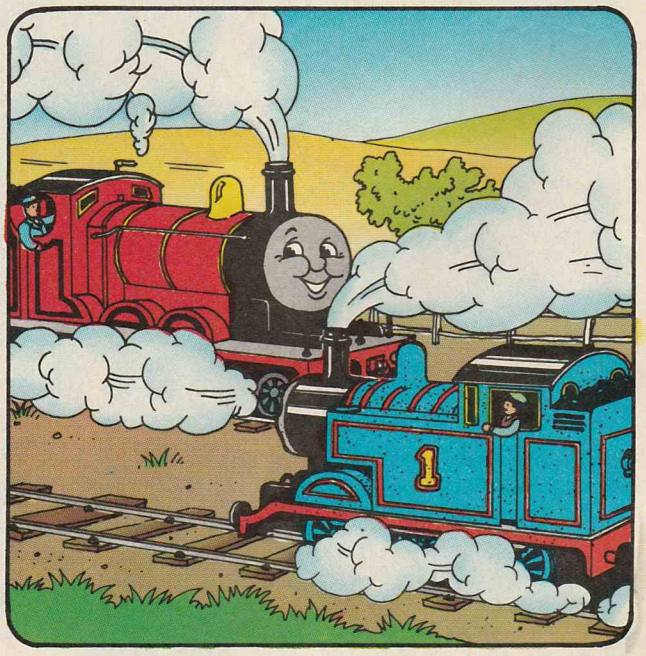
3. Just as the cleaning men were getting ready to start, a telephone rang inside their hut. One of the men put down his bucket and went to answer it.



4. The man came out of the hut and said, "That was the Fat Controller on the telephone. He needs Thomas to go and help Percy with some trucks right away."

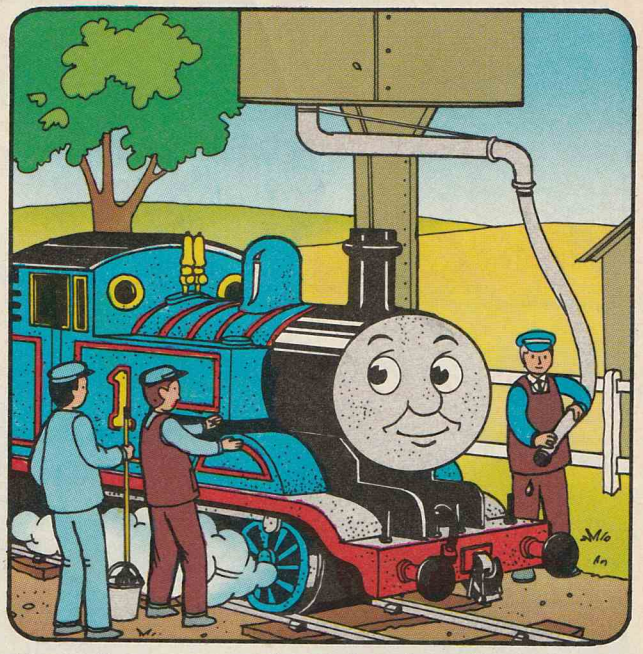


5. Thomas was rather disappoined not to get his wash but he did as he was told. Percy did have too many trucks to handle safely on his own.

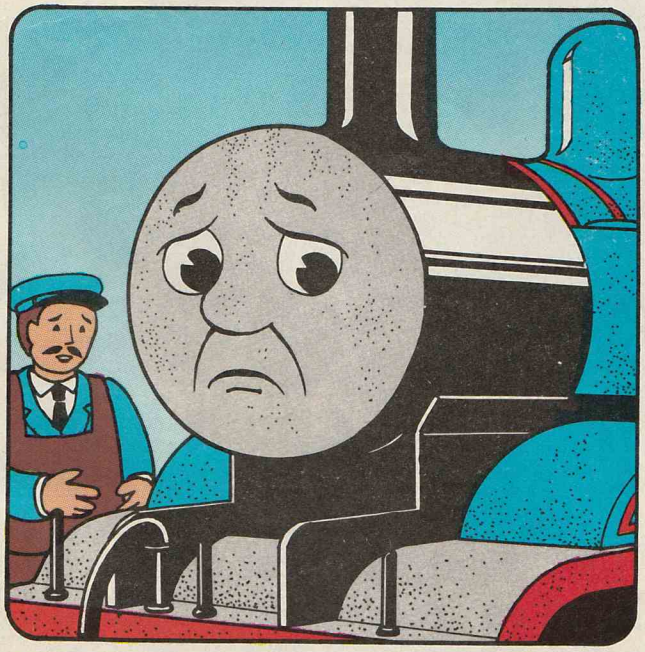


6. When Thomas had finished helping Percy with the trucks he went back to the cleaning station. On the way he saw James coming towards him.

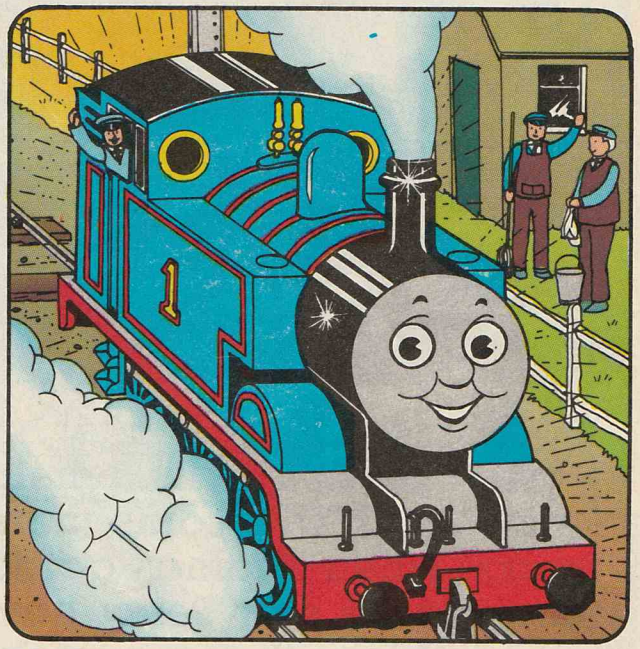
7. James looked shiny, clean and very pleased with himself. Thomas had a sinking feeling. "Don't I look smart Thomas; and aren't you dirty!" laughed James.



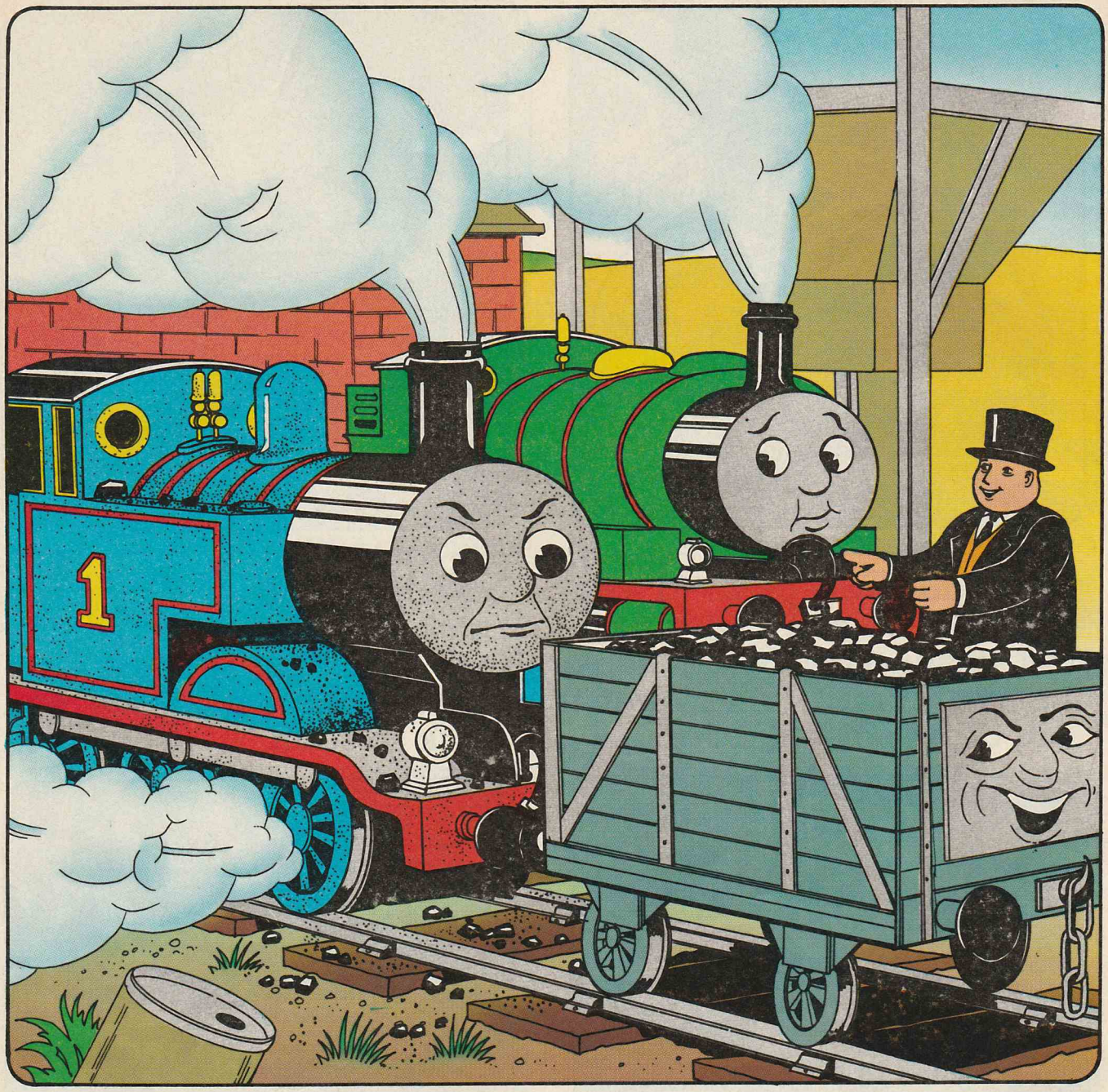
8. James had just been cleaned. When Thomas got back to the cleaning station they said, "Oh Thomas – we did not expect to see you back so soon."



9. "We have used up all our water to clean James. Can you come back again tomorrow?" Thomas was not very happy about this but nothing could be done.



10. Thomas came back for a third time the next day and this time he got washed. He came away sparkling clean and feeling very pleased with himself indeed.



11. Thomas's first job after his wash was to go and help Percy again with some more trucks. When Thomas got to the yard he saw Percy having trouble with some trucks full of coal. The trucks were laughing and being silly. Percy was getting ever so cross. Just as Thomas arrived Percy gave the trucks a big bump.

12. The truck at the end bumped into Thomas! Pieces of coal and a cloud of black dust went all over him. "Oh no! I've just been cleaned!" said Thomas. The Fat Controller saw it all happen. "Poor Thomas," he said, though he could not help laughing. "Never mind – go back and get cleaned again this evening."

THE END

In our next issue: Selling the railway!

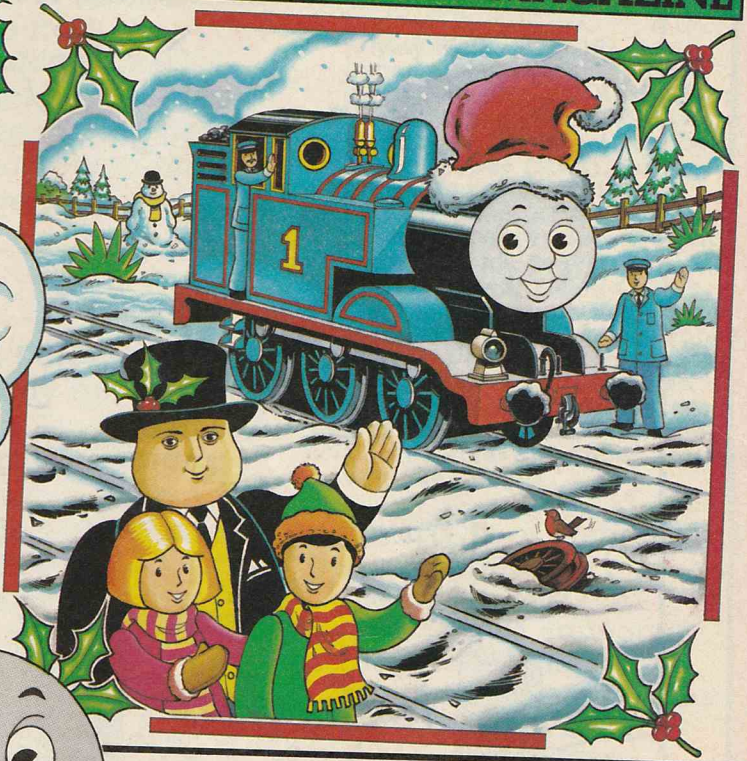
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

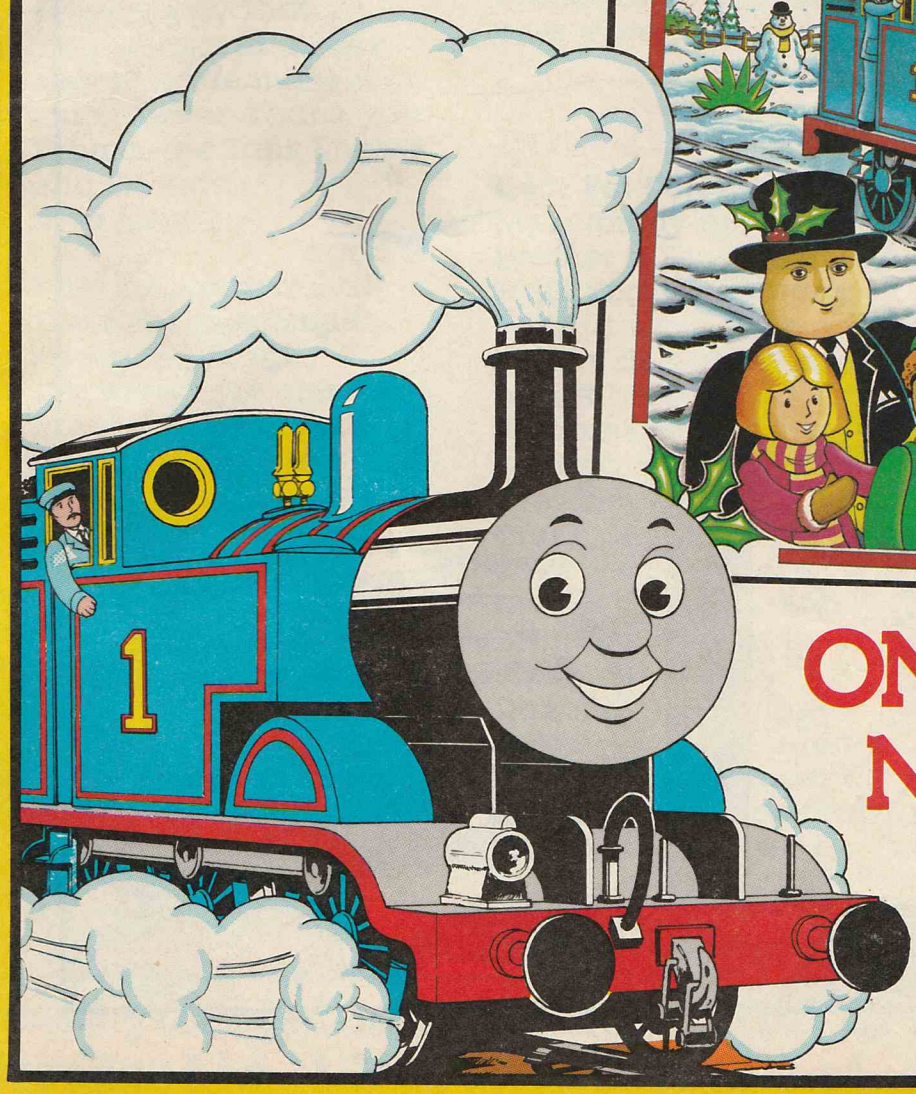
CHRISTMAS POSTER MAGAZINE!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

CHRISTMAS POSTER MAGAZINE



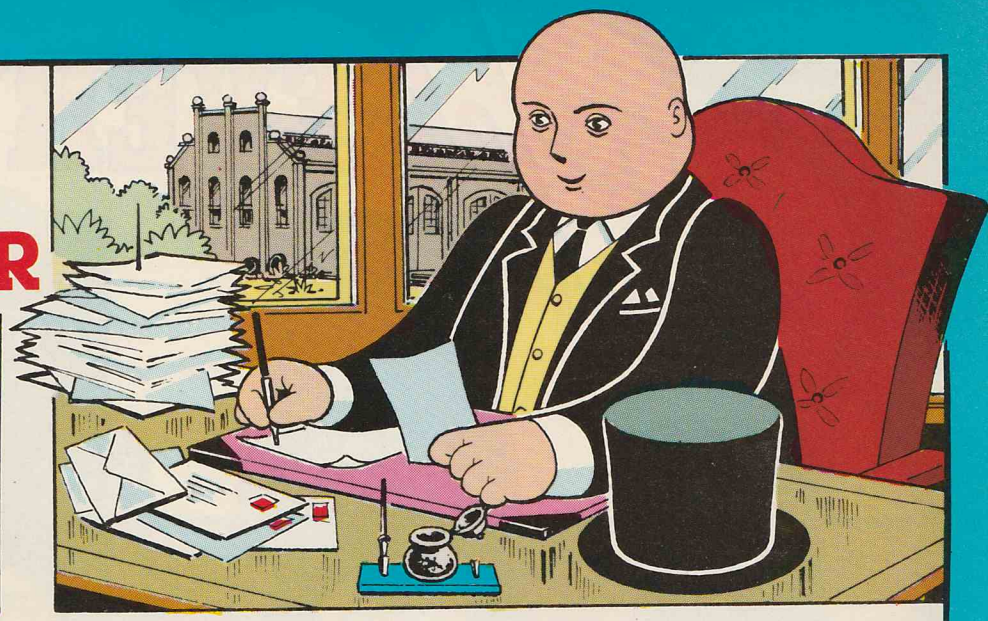


ON SALE NOW!

JOIN THE DOTS!

The engine sheds are shut up tight
On this starry New Year's night.
Join the dots to tell the time
Then listen to the church bells chime!

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER

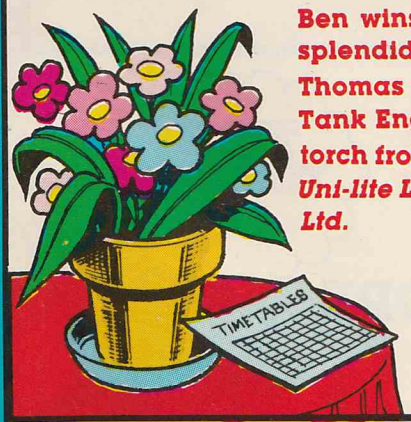


Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
The other week I had to go into hospital to have an operation. When I woke up my Thomas magazine was on my bed. It made me feel much better. Thank you Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends!
Love from **Ben du Feu,** aged 3.

I am so pleased that Thomas's magazine cheered you up. Everyone here on my railway would like to send you their very best wishes for a speedy recovery!



Ben wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine torch from *Uni-lite Leisure Ltd.*

HOT FOOD!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you ever eat curries?
Love from **Rebecca.**

Yes . . . occasionally I do! But they must be very mild indeed! The hot curries always make my eyes water, you know!

THOMAS OR DONALD?

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy made my brother a Thomas the Tank Engine birthday cake. It was lovely. Daddy decided that it wasn't blue enough so he painted an extra coating of blue icing over the top with a little brush. When we got the cake out of the oven it had gone black. My brother said that it looked more like Donald or Douglas!
Love from **Ruth,** aged 4.

Deary me . . . what a surprise! I do hope that it still tasted nice and everyone enjoyed it!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go out to:

Kayley Walker (27619), Peter Cotton (3965), Karam Bales, Stephen Underwood, Kerry Glover (2150), Emma Webb (26710). Andrew Graley, David Pickard, Dawn Bawdon (0009), Harrison Abbot (19200), Luke Wilson (30720), Cameron Miller, Luke Kendrick (24602), Sam Watson (28698), Benjy Rogers (26227), Angela Grieve, Victoria Hayle (30769), Paul Mountfield, Matthew Tasker (30711), Stephen Willcocks (26233), Carl Anthony Lloyd, Michael Derek Walton (27537), Karl Smurthwaite (12393), Melanie Smurthwaite, Stuart Walker and Robert James Winsper.

If you'd like a mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will try our best!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

A Happy New Year to you all!

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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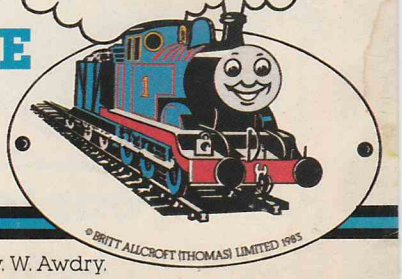

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